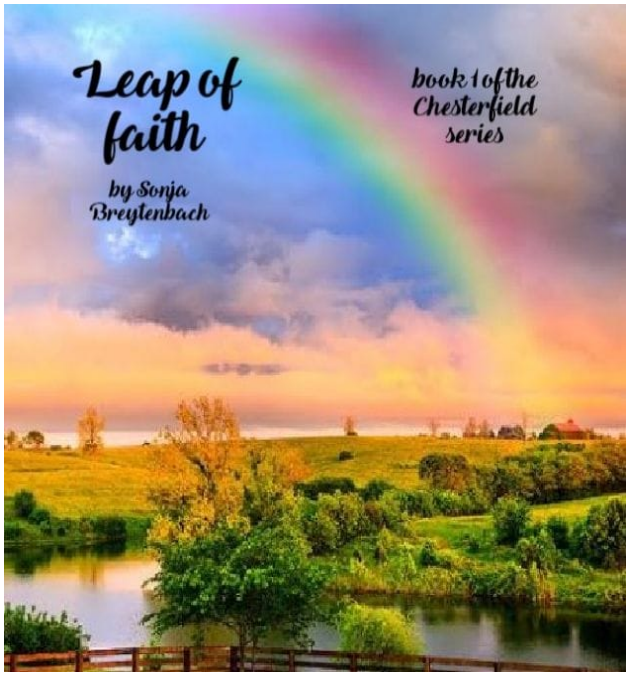

Note from the author

This book is a work of fiction. Places ,names and times mentioned in this book is all fiction and not real. This book mentions jumping into holes it's not at all condoned by the author of this book to do because it can be unsafe. I am not a professional writer. I am just a person who likes to exercise my talents. All glory goes to Jesus Christ! Enjoy your journey with the characters.

Leap of faith by Sonja Breytenbach

Book number 1 in the Chesterfield series

Chapter 1

CHESTERFIELD 1885

Andrea Whitman stared off into space. Miles and miles of space between her old life and the new one have been covered. She was about to embark on a new journey in her life. She had no idea what lay ahead. She was on a train headed to meet her Fiance. They have never met in person before. His name was James Camden. He is a farmer in the South.

She saw the add in the newspaper for a mail order bride and she immediately liked it and replied to it. She loved all his letters he sent her, and she couldn't see why she should continue to live with her parents and ten siblings. Being a mail order bride seemed like the way to go. She was the oldest daughter of Beth and Sam Whitman. Andrea was their oldest daughter at nearly 28 years old, she was way past ready to be married and settled.

Andrea wanted lots of kids just like her parents and what she had read about James is he wanted a lot of children straight away.

The train came to a halt. It was time for her to get off. This is it, it is the time she met her future husband and Andrea was very nervous.

Chapter 2

CHESTERFIELD 1885

James Camden was a tall man with a beard, and red blonde hair, he had blue grayish eyes. With him was a woman and a man she weren't familiar with. James looked a bit older than the photograph she was sent by him. She couldn't say he was a very attractive man, but the smile on his face reassured her he was a very friendly man and it made her feel welcome. The woman with him had red hair and grayish blue eyes. Once Andrea was properly introduced, she came to know that the woman with the red hair is James sister and the man with her was James brother in law. The woman's name was Susan and her husband was named Peter Wolensky who was a banker in town.

Her luggage was put on the wagon by James.

“ I’m just going to stop at the mercantile along the way.” James said as he was helping Andrea on to the wagon.

The sun was beating down on them and she regretted her hat not being wide rimmed. James talked to her about his farm, and how many acres of land he owned and how many cows he had breeding this summer. James continued “My cottage isn’t that big I will built on next summer.” He looked at her

“The cottage is very dusty so a woman’s touch is just what it needs” James told her.

Andrea knew the life of a farmers wife was not going to be an easy one. She grew up in the city, so she was going to have to adjust and learn new things. She wasn’t scared of hard work. Her mother taught her a lot about running a household, and she was very positive she would adapt to the farm way of life although she has never been on a farm before.

When they arrived at the mercantile, James helped her down from the wagon. He told her

she could get whatever she needed as they where walking to the door.

“ It is harvest time so I am making a good amount of money” James beamed.

Andrea decided to get flour, a new wide rimmed hat suitable for the farm life. She got herself material and accessories to make herself two farm dresses, she knew how to sow her mother had taught her well. The dresses she bought with her she will wear to church. She also opted for a pair of boots and a winters jacket, winter was nearing and she needed it.

James Camden stood in the mercantile he looked at his bride to be. He couldn’t believe when Andrea stepped of the train. She was a short woman but anybody would be seen as short compared to James.

Andrea had long black hair that shone in the sun. It was pinned in tiny curls on her head.

She had brown eyes and a nervous smile. She was far more beautiful than the photograph she had sent him. He liked her from the start.

On her way to the farm Andrea talked little, except about her parents and her ten siblings. James knew Andrea came from a big family.

He would have loved growing up with so much siblings but he only had his sister. He hoped he and Andrea could start on their own big family very soon.

Chapter 3

CHESTERFIELD 1885

It was a long and dusty road to get to the small one bedroom cabin which was to be Andrea's home from now on. James unpacked the wagon cart and once she was inside she could see why James said the cottage needed a woman's touch. There where clothes lying on the floor and dust gathered everywhere she touched. The cabin was simple. It had a small kitchen. One small bedroom and a living room with a sofa and a arm chair. It had a worn out rug and a fire place. He apologized again as he walked in through the front door. James put her luggage in the bedroom. She will unpack

her suitcase later, she had to get dinner going first it was getting late.

Later when James came in from the fields she served him simple venison stew she made with carrots and biscuits that she made with the flour she bought.

After dinner James complimented her on her cooking and said he wanted more of the same meals in the future.

She cleaned up the kitchen then and then she sat in the living room with James who read a book. Andrea took up her knitting she was going to start a blanket.

James told her about his family that evening and how he only had the one sister Susan and his brother in law Peter. He also told her how his father who was a farmer also passed away from illness when he was nineteen years old, and that his mother passed a few months later from the same illness. She learned he was turning thirty years old this September.

As the days rolled on, Andrea came to know what farming life was all about. She milked the cows, fed the chickens and baked and made

dinner. Her days where full. James also taught her how to make butter. Andrea was exhausted by the time she got into bed, but she loved the farm life. It was a peaceful and quiet way of life.

Chapter 4

CHESTERFIELD 1885

The wedding was two days away and Andrea had lots to do, to get ready for it. She was going to make a nice roast and cakes and other treats for the reception. She didn't have to make that much, it was after all only Susan and Peter who will be their guests attending the wedding.

She had to get the laundry done first. It was to be done at the river near to their cottage.

Andrea's back ached as she hauled the laundry towards the river. She couldn't see much in front of her with the huge basket she held in her hands.

She screamed. The next moment she fell into what must be a hole in the ground. It all

happened so fast. She felt dizzy then everything went black around her.

Chapter 5

CHESTERFIELD 2024

When Andrea opened her eyes she saw sunlight shining in her eyes. She got up, thankful that she could. She seemed okay.

She looked around her it was a deep hole that she had fell in. She struggled to get out of the hole but she managed.

She looked around her, and what she saw didn't make any sense to her at all.

There was a road in front of her. She could tell it was a road but she had never seen a road quite like this before. It was black with white lines on it.

Where was she? Something sped by at an amazing speed the next moment.

It wasn't until another went by that she knew something wasn't right, it looked like a tin wagon with wheels except there was no horse pulling it.

She heard a loud sound the next moment, and when she looked up, she saw this big tin bird flying in the air. Okay, now she was starting to freak out. Was she dreaming what type of place was this?

She heard another loud sound and saw a man getting out of the tin wagon thing shouting at her.

“Are you mad, I could have killed you?” the man shouted.

He continued “ Why are you in the middle of the road? Are you okay lady?”

Andrea too overwhelmed to speak, started sobbing uncontrollably.”

“ Are you hurt?”

There came no reply.

Not knowing what else to do he said “ It’s okay, let me take you to the hospital that they can see if you are okay.”

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Andrea felt as if she was lost in a nightmare. The man helped her into his car. She had never seen or heard about a mechanical horse like this one before.

“There is a hospital 32 km away from here I’ll take you there, please put on your safety belt.” the man said he had a look of concern on his face.

“My name is Patrick Simmons I’m the local vet here in Chesterfield, and you are?”

Andrea still sobbing answered “I’m Andrea Whitman.”

“Nice to meet you Andrea, did anybody hurt you?”

“no” Andrea answered

Patrick sighed. He felt relieved. The woman looked like she was from another time. He couldn’t understand the way she was dressed. Andrea wore a purple dress which came out wide with buttons at the neckline. He had never seen a woman wearing anything like that in his 33 years. Her hairstyle was also old fashioned she black hair that was pinned up on her head in tiny curls. Nobody he had ever met or seen

even in a magazine had a hairstyle like this lady.

The drive to the hospital went quick, he hoped the doctor would give her something to calm down.

Andrea saw a huge white building as they drove up the road. She had never seen a building so beautiful, it had rose bushes in front and big trees. The doctor saw her right away, he gave Andrea something to calm her. He asked her lots of questions. To him she seemed out of it. The doctor asked her where she was from. She told him she lived in Chesterfield on a farm. He asked her if she had close relatives there and she said she only had James her Fiance. The doctor diagnosed Andrea with Schizophrenia and told her she should get rest. The doctor couldn't see why she couldn't go home immediately so he decided not to keep her over for the night in hospital. Patrick told her on his way out of the hospital that he will make sure she got safely back to her Fiance.

On the way outside the hospital Patrick saw a Burger King and asked Andrea if she was hungry. She told him she was, the sun was starting to set.

Patrick wanted to know if she minded if he booked her into a motel for the evening. Patrick was getting tired.

“I will take you back in the morning.” Patrick said

Andrea told him she didn’t know what a motel is, she knows about hotels yes.

Patrick explained then what a motel was.

He thought to himself then she must have had the rough farm life and not get out much, especially if she didn’t know what a motel was.

He learned she didn’t know what a cheeseburger is and that she never had one before either.

That’s just weird Patrick thought to himself, maybe she was one of those Amish people he didn’t feel it right to ask Andrea seeing he was only going to know her for one day.

The drive to the motel wasn't that far. Patrick booked two rooms one for Andrea and one for him. Inside the room was a bed with a chest of drawers, there was this box type thing hanging on the wall. She had no idea what that was but there where people moving in the box.

Andrea screamed.

Patrick came in and asked her if everything was okay.

Andrea looking bewildered said 'No, look there's small people in this box moving around, we need to get them out."

It's just a TV, it's not real people inside Patrick said. He had never met anyone who haven't seen a TV before.

What type of life was this woman leading on that farm where she lived.

Andrea went into the bathroom she told him "Come here, what is this?" she pointed at the shower and toilet.

"You mean you have never used a shower or a toilet in your life?" Patrick asked her.

“No we don’t have those where I come from.” Andrea said

“It’s like you are from the olden days, not to be rude, I mean it’s the year 2024 for crying out loud. Who haven’t ever used a toilet?” Patrick couldn’t help to raise his voice a bit.

“That’s a lie! It’s 1885 not 2024!” Andrea yelled.

Andrea’s head started to spin maybe he wasn’t lying and this wasn’t just a bad dream. Everything was starting to come together now, the tin wagons he called cars, the flying tin objects in the sky. The buildings the road and the doctor’s equipment.

If he was telling the truth what was she to do?

Everything starting spinning around her then it just went black.

Chapter 6

CHESTERFIELD 1885

“James, everything will be okay. We will find Andrea?” Susan reassured him.

James had been searching for Andrea for hours. It was getting dark. He had no idea where Andrea could have gone. Was she lost somewhere? or even worse did a wild animal eat Andrea? He was worried sick. He was even in town looking for her. She never showed that she was unhappy. Did she run away? Did she have cold feet about the wedding? The questions where driving him crazy. He won’t be able to sleep a wink tonight.

Wherever Andrea was he hoped she was okay.

Chapter 7

CHESTERFIELD 2024

When Andrea came too, it took a while for her to register where she was and who was the man standing in front of her with a look of deep concern. He had dark brown wavy hair and a short beard. He had brown eyes he was indeed

a very attractive man, she remembered then it was Patrick. She thought maybe if she slept she would wake up from this dream,but realized now that it wasn't

"You got me worried there, are you alright?" Patrick said

"I think so, how long was I out for? Andrea asked Patrick.

"Not more than 10 minutes. I made you some tea." Patrick said. Andrea saw Patrick sitting on the edge of her bed watching the box thing she came to know was a TV.

" I want to go to the Camden farm and see James, will you take me?" Andrea asked Patrick. She will see James at the farm and this whole mess will be sorted out.

"Yes, I will take you first thing tomorrow morning, I'm going to leave you now that you get some rest."

" Thank you Patrick, you have been very kind to me." Andrea turned on her side in bed and pulled up her blankets. She drifted off into a deep sleep.

Chapter 8

CHESTERFIELD 2024

The morning sun shone bright into the room where Andrea slept, it awoke her. She didn't know what date it was or what the time was.

She got up it was time to use the toilet. Patrick already explained the day before how she should use it, but she was too much in a daze to pay attention to what he had said. She pulled up her dress and sat down on the white porcelain stool. They had a long drop on the Camden farm. She remembered Patrick tell her to pull the lever once she has done her business. How was she to figure this out? she looked at the lever and pulled it down. It made a noise then that she never heard before and it made her jump. She must have done it right she thought to herself.

Just then she heard a knock on the door. It was Patrick.

" I hope I'm not disturbing , but I have to check in on work this morning, before I take you to your Fiance." Patrick said.

He held a strange object in his hand that made a beeping sound. There was so much that didn't make sense to Andrea.

"Sorry, I have to take this call. I'll be with you now." Patrick said.

A moment later Patrick looked at her and said "Let's grab some McDonalds on the way." Patrick surely had a strange way of speaking.

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A few minutes later they where in Patrick's car. They stopped at McDonalds. He chose a table for them at the back. He ordered a breakfast for them both. Patrick could see Andrea was never in a McDonalds before either. People where staring at her. She realized she was very hungry when Patrick brought them their food.

"I'm just going to take a look at that dog that's come in a week ago. I did surgery on his leg, hopefully he will be able to walk again, his name is Archie and he is a Yorkshire terrier." Patrick said.

“I’m looking forward to meet him.” Andrea said she herself had a huge love for animals she thought about her family dog then his name was Randy. She missed him. She thought about the farm animals on the Camden farm. James must be worried sick about her. Did he even know she was missing?

Driving in a car as Patrick called it, still made her feel nauseous. He told her he wasn’t even driving that fast.

When they finally got there, she liked the Yorkshire terrier very much and she was happy he was doing so much better. Patrick said his leg was healing nicely and Archie would go home in the coming week. He was positive that Archie would be able to walk again.

Andrea could tell that Patrick was good at what he did for a living and she liked Patrick even more because of it.

They didn’t talk much on their way to the Camden farm. It was after an hour of driving that Patrick came up to a dirt roadway where a farmhouse stood.

“This is where the Camden farm is supposed to be.” Andrea said.

She looked at the brick farmhouse that stood in the same place where the cabin stood that was built by James.

“Maybe this isn’t the right place.” Andrea said more to herself than to Patrick.

It must be the house was different but the views where the same in a way. There where farm animals but they weren’t kept in the same way James kept his.

Patrick saw that Andrea turned pale in the face, so he took the lead and knocked on the door of the house.

They heard someone inside made a rustling noise. The door opened and a lady with long brown hair said “hello.”

“I’m looking for James Camden.” Patrick asked.

“No sorry I’m the only one living here. My name is Julie Lewis. I had a husband who’s relatives was surnamed Camden but they are

all long gone. I don't think it's them you are looking for." Julie told them.

"Thank you for your help mam" Patrick said.

"No problem at all, I hope you both find who you are looking for" Julie said. She then closed the door.

" So this is the year 2024 then?" Andrea asked.

"yes" Patrick answered.

"How am I going to find my way back to 1885?" Andrea asked.

Patrick hugged Andrea then.

"It's going to be okay, you can live with me in the meantime while we look for a way to get you back home." Patrick said.

The doctor might have diagnosed Andrea with schizophrenia, but for some unknown reason he didn't believe Andrea was a sick or mad woman. She is telling him the truth. There must be an explanation to all this.

The sun was starting to set. On their way to Patrick's house, Patrick stopped at a gas station. He bought Andrea and him a water.

“ We need to keep hydrated” Patrick said. He explained to her that a car needs petrol to be able to drive and therefore the need for gas stations. She marveled at the street lights and the car lights, it was beautiful to her.

Patrick had a white brick house with a huge lawn in front. She had never seen anything like it. When his front door opened, a golden retriever met them,who Patrick introduced as Benji. Andrea petted Benji and went inside. Patrick had many paintings of animals and photos of Benji and him as well as family photos on the walls. They went to the kitchen together and he tried explaining to her how a coffee machine and electricity worked. It was all too much too sink in. He made her coffee then and they sat in the living room.

“I’m very tired she said” after she drank the coffee. Patrick showed her the bathroom. He gave her a towel and a T-shirt and a pair of pants, and showed her the guest bedroom which she will be sleeping in from now on. She just didn’t know how long.

Chapter 9

CHESTERFIELD 2024

The next morning Patrick knocked on her bedroom door.

“Hey, I made you breakfast” Patrick said.

Andrea had a dream about the hole she fell in last night, and she couldn’t wait to tell Patrick.

“You need to take me back to the hole. I think I can get back to 1885 if I go down into that same hole again.”

“What hole?” Patrick asked confused.

“The one I fell in. When I climbed out I ended being in 2024. I think that is the only way back to 1885. Will you help me find it, Patrick? Andrea said hoping she didn’t sound crazy.

“Yes off course I’ll help you, but I need go to work first.” Patrick said

“ There is a mare that has trouble birthing at the zoo, so it’s rather urgent we be on our way” Patrick said.

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Andrea and Patrick walked past Parrots and Macaws, when they saw the horses on the other side. When they went in through the gate, the zookeeper showed them where the mare was that was busy giving birth. Andrea saw the horse was light brown in color with a white spot on her head. She could tell the horse was in pain. Patrick tended to the horse and asked Andrea to fetch him water in the bucket that was standing nearby.

“I’m going to give her something to ease her pain, it’s a bridge” Patrick said.

Andrea watched how Patrick worked with the horse. He was very gentle with her. Two and a half hours later the little one was born, feet first.

“That was the hardest birth for me so far.” Patrick said.

Andrea saw the little one get on his feet, and take the first step. He was white and brown.

“It’s wonderful how they just get up like that and walk” Andrea smiled broadly.

“You did good.” Andrea said. They hugged then and looked into each others eyes. They nearly kissed.

Not sure what to make of the situation Patrick moved away.

“Your Fiance is a very lucky man” Patrick said.

“We should get washed up and get ready to leave. Patrick gave Andrea soap and a towel to use in the zoos public restroom.

In the car on their way to the Camden farm. Andrea told Patrick she enjoyed their day very much, and that she sure was going to think about it for a long time in the days ahead.

“you are not the only one.” Patrick said.

It got quiet between them then. They both knew this could be it. They are going to have to say goodbye to each other. Patrick didn’t want to think it too much over.

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“I’m sure this is where it’s supposed to be, you did bring the rope?” Andrea asked Patrick.

“I have it here.” Patrick showed her.

She looked around it was hard to tell with all the tall grass around them.

After a short time went by Andrea said “There it is.” To her right there was a big hole in the ground and it must be even bigger from years of erosion.

“Patrick if this works I hope you have a wonderful life and that you will know I am ever so grateful for all that you have done for me. She gave him a hug then, breathing in his scent.

“ I’m gonna miss you Andrea, let’s get you back home.”

He lowered Andrea into the hole with the rope. It took about 15 minutes. When he didn’t hear her anymore.

“Andrea” Patrick shouted.

“Are you still there?” Patrick called her name again.

There was no answer.

Chapter 10

CHESTERFIELD 1885

Andrea got herself out of the hole. She looked around, the cabin looked like it was supposed to look. She must be back in 1885. She was happy to be in her own time. Her thoughts drifted of towards Patrick, she is so thankful to God that, that man was the one who found her in the middle of the road that day.

What a decent man he was, maybe she will awake any moment and realize it was all just a dream. She sure was going to miss Patrick a lot.

Andrea opened the door to the cabin on the arm chair in the living room was Susan sitting, she got up as soon as she saw Andrea. How was she going to explain all that has happened these past few days to these people. Andrea felt nervous.

“Andrea, thank God, we have been worried sick about you!” Are you okay?” Susan said.

“You look rather pale and scared, we thought you have been kidnapped. Come sit here” Susan looked at Andrea with deep concern.

Andrea sat on the couch, Susan's arm was on her shoulder.

After a few long stretched moments of silence Andrea said she is okay.

What was Andrea to say, they will surely think her mad if she told them she was in 2024 the past few days. She kept quiet.

James came in through the front door and relieve flooded his face.

"Andrea" James came and sat beside her.

"I looked everywhere for you" after a long moment she knew she had to say something, but what?

"I fell in a ditch" she said.

" O, no you poor thing are you hurt?" Susan said.

"I'm okay" she couldn't meet their eyes.

Why was it when she told Patrick something ridiculous he could come around and believe her? She knew that this people wouldn't be so understanding. An overwhelming sense of not belonging here came over her. She couldn't bring herself to tell them the whole story, she

was here now and Patrick was a man from another time. Andrea had actually came to realize her time with Patrick was the best time of her life.

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The next day James came barging in through the front door.

“I just spoke to pastor Ray, our wedding is rescheduled. It’s at 2 o’clock tomorrow. Don’t make dinner for me tonight Jackson and I are going to the Saloon. Tomorrow you are to be Mrs. Camden” James said and swooped her up in his embrace, he planted a huge kiss on her cheek then. Andrea just stood in astonishment. Things surely where happening fast. Was it what she wanted?

Chapter 11

CHESTERFIELD 2024

Patrick just felt uneasy, he didn't know someone could just disappear like that into a hole in the ground. Was she really ever there? Andrea came to mean so much to him in such a short time. How is it, that she just came and went like that? Patrick couldn't get her sweet face out of his mind. He wanted to know if she was safe and okay? Or was she only a figment of his imagination. He had to find out and get answers for himself. This was weirding him out a bit. He decided he will take Benji to his friends house and he will drive up to that hole where he saw Andrea disappear.Today was the day to do it. Patrick had to find her, otherwise this will drive him insane.

The road to the Camden farm felt forever. Once Patrick parked his car, he walked to the hole in the ground where he saw Andrea disappear. It was rather a deep hole but he knew Andrea could get out she told him so. He looked around no one was here to see him jump. He didn't care who might see him he wanted to see Andrea again. He looked one more time

down the hole. Patrick took a deep breath. He leaped.

Chapter 12

CHESTERFIELD 1885

Patrick opened his eyes he climbed out of the hole. In front of him in the distance stood a cabin, but it looked nothing like the one he just saw before jumping into the hole. There where a pig roaming around, there was a horse tied up to a fence. And there where crops planted to his right. It was now or never he wasn't dreaming,this place looked like a picture in a history book. Andrea wasn't joking around when she said she is from 1885.

He went up the steps to the cabin door. Patrick opened the door and shouted "hello!" it was silent. No one answered even after one more attempt.

"Where could Andrea and James her Fiance be" Jealousy overcame him. Patrick wanted Andrea for himself, he felt a deep connection between them when she was with him. He missed her. Back outside Patrick nearly

bumped into the dark brown horse that was tied up outside. Patrick had to go look for her. He got on the horse and rode off.

Where was she, he just knew he will search everywhere, and he did.

Patrick rushed through the church building doors in front of him stood four people, two was about to get married and one of them was Andrea.

“Stop this wedding!” Patrick shouted.

“What?” James said “Who the heck are you?”

“Andrea” Patrick continued “You belong with me. You can feel it as much as I can, what we have shared these past few days is love and I want to be with you. Don’t get married to this man.”

James stood red faced with balled fists he signaled to Peter “ Let’s get rid of this #$&@$!!”

“No!”Andrea shouted to James. “I want to be with Patrick, I love him.”

She ran down the isle towards Patrick. They got on the brown horse and off they rode into

the sun not knowing where they where headed but they knew they where meant to be together.

“I’m ready if you are ready?” Patrick said to Andrea they where in front of the hole again.

“Lets do this” Andrea said.

They both took a leap, a leap of faith.

CHESTERFIELD 2024

Andrea and Patrick stood in front of the pastor. Andrea wore a gorgeous fishtail wedding gown. She looked stunning. They heard the pastor announce their marriage.

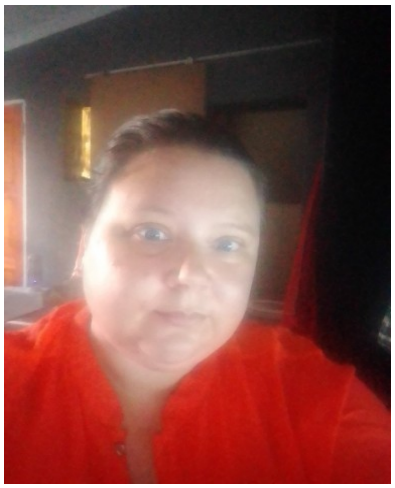
“You are my wife now Mrs. Simmons.” Patrick said.

“You are my husband Mr. Simmons” Andrea said with a huge smile

“I’m very excited starting this journey called life with you by my side Mrs. Simmons. Patrick gave Andrea a long kiss and held her close.

Patrick and Andrea went on to have one son which became a pastor.

The end.



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